

## Warranty

Knoll Systems warrants MX855 amplifiers sold in the USA and Canada by authorized Knoll dealers to be free of defects in materials and manufacturing. This warranty extends for three full years from the date of purchase by the original consumer. Any products returned to Knoll Systems and found to be defective by Knoll Systems within the warranty period will be repaired or replaced at Knoll Systems decision, at no charge. Knoll Systems will not be responsible for the actual cost of installation or removal of the product, nor for any incidental or consequential damages. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may have additional legal rights that vary from state to state.

## Specifications:

Inputs	8 Gold RCA jacks with adjustable gain
Input impedance	50k $\Omega$
Outputs	detachable plug
Output power	55 watts RMS per channel (8 $\Omega$ )
Bridged Power (channel 6)	<b>180 watts RMS (8 <math>\Omega</math> only)</b>
Peak output power	100 watts per channel (8 $\Omega$ )
Ideal impedance	4 - 8 $\Omega$
Frequency response	10 Hz - 40 kHz +/- 1dB (1w)
S/N ratio	over 105 dB A weighted (50 watts)
THD distortion	less than 0.1% 20 Hz to 20 kHz
IMD distortion	less than 0.01% 60 Hz 7 kHz 4:1 (SMPTE)
Trigger control	12 VDC 35mA on 3.5mm mono jack
Dimensions	17" x 3.5" x 11.5" (432 x 89 x 292mm)
Fan Noise	quiet 26 dBA
Power	750 watts at 117 VAC or 230 VAC
Weight	21 lbs (9.5 kg)

**Note:** Specifications subject to change without notice.

## Knoll Systems

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Made in Canada/Fabrique au Canada



# MX855 Amplifier

8 Channel Amplifier  
Installation Instructions v7.3



**Warning:** To be installed and/or used in accordance with appropriate electrical codes and regulations.

**Description:** The MX855 is a member of the long line of Knoll multi-channel amplifiers. Designed primarily for the custom install industry, it is used to power speakers with different or similar sources in multiple rooms. With 8 channels rated at 55 watts per channels at 8  $\Omega$ , the MX855 packs some serious punch. Each channel has a gain control. The MX855 can be turned on and off via the front panel power switch or via the 12 VDC trigger. MX855 channels 2-4 can be linked to channel 1 individually using the link switches. MX855 amplifiers designed to meet the amplifier needs of custom installed systems where high-quality sound is a specific requirement.

## Key Features:

- 1. Size efficiency.** The MX855 consists of a total of 8 power amplifiers in one 3-1/2" high enclosure. Each power amplifier channel can deliver 55 watts RMS into an 8- $\Omega$  load.
- 2. Automatic protection circuitry.** Each MX855 channel is individually and fully protected against low impedance, overheating, overloading, over voltage and under voltage. The protection circuitry automatically restores the amplifier channel as soon as its parameter returns to the safe operating area.
- 3. Individual input gain adjustment.** Each channel features an input gain adjustment pot to adjust each channel for gain and speaker sensitivity variations.
- 4. External power on/off.** The MX855 can be turned off and on by external controllers via its 12 VDC trigger jack.
- 5. Stackable 17" chassis.** 19" rack ears available.
- 6. Link Feature.** Certain installations require that some or all of the stereo channels play the same content. Instead of using Y cords, the Knoll "link" cascades any or all of channels 2-4 to channel 1 (L/R).
- 7. Bridgeable.** Channel 4 can be bridged giving 180 watts RMS into an 8  $\Omega$  load for use with subwoofers and speakers that need more power.

## Important Safety Instructions:

- 1) Read these instructions.
- 2) Keep these instructions.
- 3) Read all warnings.
- 4) Follow all instructions.
- 5) Do not use this apparatus near water.
- 6) Clean only with dry cloth.
- 7) Do not block any ventilation openings. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- 8) Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
- 9) Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding-type plug. A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. A grounding type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The wide blade or the third prongs are provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
- 10) Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
- 11) Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.
- 12) Use only with the cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table specified by the manufacturer, or sold with the apparatus. When a cart is used, exercise caution when moving the cart/apparatus combination to avoid injury from tip-over.
- 13) Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when not used for long periods of time.
- 14) Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as power-supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.
- 15) Under no circumstances should the output terminals of the amplifier be short-circuited.
- 16) Be sure that the loudspeakers connected can handle the output power of the amplifier at the loudspeakers rated impedance. The warranty on the amplifier does not cover damage to loudspeakers that have inadequate power handling capabilities.
- 17) Where an all-pole MAINS SWITCH is used as the disconnect device, the location on the apparatus and the function of the switch shall be described, and the switch shall remain readily operable.
- 18) A push button is used to turn the power off and on.
- 19) A LED is used to show when the apparatus is powered on.

CAUTION: These servicing instructions are for use by qualified service personnel only. To reduce the risk of electric shock do not perform any servicing other than that contained in the operating instructions unless you are qualified to do so.

**WARNING:** This product may contain chemicals, including lead, known to the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm.  
**Wash hands after handling.**

## Hum and noise

In most cases, one of the following suggestions should help you solve a hum noise in your system. Please try these steps in the order shown; proceeding from one step to the next if the prior suggestion does not eliminate the problem.

### *Suggestion #1*

To determine if a cable TV connection is responsible for the hum, first turn off all the components. Disconnect the cable TV feed to your system at the first place where it connects to your components. Alternatively, disconnect the cable TV wire where it is connected at the wall outlet. Turn your system back on, and listen if the hum has disappeared. If removing the cable TV feed has eliminated the hum, you will need to insert a Ground Loop Isolator (Knoll model GB634) before reconnecting the cable TV feed, or contact your cable TV operator to see if they can better isolate your cable feed.

### *Suggestion #2*

*Turn off all components in your system and then disconnect the input cables at the amplifier. Turn the amplifier back on to see if the hum is still present. If the hum disappears, the fault may be in the input cables used. Try replacing them with cables that have better shielding, and make certain that the input cables are not running on top of any AC power cords. Change the cables one at a time to determine if one or all cables are responsive. If the hum disappears when the input cables are disconnected but returns after the cables are changed and the system reconnected, your source device may be causing the problem.*

### *Suggestion #3*

Poor grounding of the electrical system in your home may also cause ground loop problems, particularly when there are multiple components with three prongs, grounded, power cords. Unplug these components one at a time, and see if one or all of them is causing the problem. The ultimate solution to this type of problem is to rewire your house with an isolated, star type-grounding configuration. Knoll understands that this may be impractical and expensive. In some instances, the use of an approved AC power isolation transformer of sufficient capacity may solve this problem.

***Warning: If you suspect that the grounding system in your home's electrical wiring is causing the hum problem, it is important that you do not make any changes to the wiring. Only a licensed electrician should make any changes to household wiring and they must be made in full compliance with all local building, safety and electrical codes.***

## Knoll Systems service information

The MX855 amplifier does not contain any user serviceable parts inside. If you suspect a problem that may require servicing, contact us at [www.knollsystems.com/contact.html](http://www.knollsystems.com/contact.html), or by phone at 800 566-5579.

### Troubleshooting

If a problem is encountered with the MX855, the most expedient procedure is to locate the problem and if possible repair it before requesting service. Be sure to carefully check other system components such as controllers, CD players, volume controls, wiring, speakers, etc. that may be at fault.

#### Problem

#### Action

Power LED does not light - no sound

1. Check that the MX855 is plugged in.
2. Test the AC outlet with a lamp.
3. If remote on/off is used, check that the trigger voltage is at 12 VDC.
4. Check MX855 power button on (in).

Sound cuts out

1. Verify speaker impedance is 4-16  $\Omega$ . Changing speakers may be required.
2. Check if the MX855 feels hot. If it's hot increase cooling - see **Installation**.

Sound is distorted

1. Turn the volume down.
2. Check speakers for damage.
3. Check inputs for proper levels. MX855 gain and source output level may, have to be adjusted.
4. Speakers may be less than 4  $\Omega$ .

MX855 does not turn off

1. Push MX855 power switch off (out).
2. If trigger is being used, power switch needs to be set to off (out) position or amp is on all the time.
3. Try disconnecting trigger jack.

Trigger does not work

1. Measure the trigger voltage with a volt meter. It needs to be 11-15 volts **DC** to work (current is about 35mA total per amp). See page 5 for details.

Speaker pops when amp turned on or off

1. Speaker may need resistor placed across terminal. Suggest 2k0 1/4 w. Discharges speaker internal capacitor.

## Installation

Installing the MX855 should be relatively easy. With a bit of planning, it will give trouble free service for years.

### 1. The most important consideration when installing the MX855 is cooling.

The MX855 has a lot of power packed into a small chassis size. When installing it in an equipment stack, it should be the top component. It needs at least 3"-5" of space above the amplifier to allow for adequate convection cooling.

2. Amplifiers should always be the top components in the system.

3. If MX855 channels frequently shutdown due to overheating, install a fan directed up from the MX855 bottom center.

4. Never operate the MX855 on its side, as the cooling potential drops significantly when operated this way.

5. Connect the MX855 inputs to the source component outputs with good quality, short as possible RCA jack cables. Connect each channel individually.

6. Connect the MX855 speaker outputs to speakers using good quality speaker wire. Minimum 16 gauge copper wire is recommended with 14 gauge minimum for runs over 30' (10m).

**Note:** Ideally the MX855 likes 6-8  $\Omega$  loads. Connecting to 4  $\Omega$  loads won't hurt the MX855 but those channels connected to 4  $\Omega$  loads may occasionally shutdown due to overloading. Never connect to speaker loads less than 4  $\Omega$ . **Channel 4 bridged mode minimum 8  $\Omega$  speaker.**

7. Individually adjust the channel gains as required. Ideally, all gains are fully on (fully clockwise).

8. Make sure the speakers in each room are connected in phase with the amplifier + going to the speaker +. Out of phase speakers give unstable imaging and poor bass response.

9. Connect trigger if being used to a 12 VDC source (about 35mA) using a 3.5mm mono jack. 5 VDC triggers will not work.

10. Connect the AC power into an outlet that supplies at least EIGHT amps (1000 watts) dedicated to each MX855.

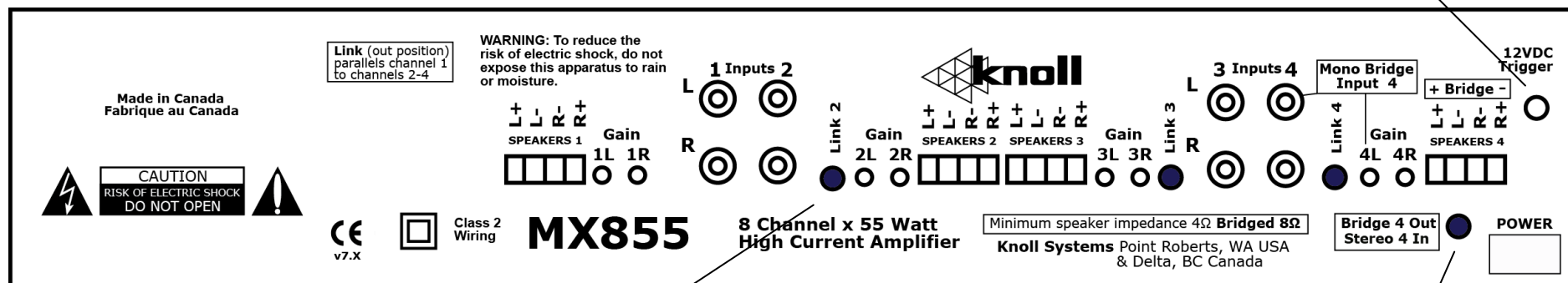
11. If more power is needed, channel 4 can be mono bridged to give 180 watts into an 8  $\Omega$  load. **Minimum impedance for channel 4 in the bridged mode is 8  $\Omega$ .** The bridged switch needs to be in the out position. The bridged input is 4L and the 4L gain pot adjusts the bridged gain. The speaker is connected to the 4L+ and 4R+ in the bridged mode.

**Caution:** Never listen to sound that is distorted. If distorted sound is heard, turn the volume down immediately or speaker and/or amplifier damage could occur that is not covered by the warranty. If this problem persists, contact your dealer.

**User adjustments and service:** There are no user adjustments on the MX855. Your installer may make certain gain level adjustments on the rear panel.

**Caution:** The MX855 contains no user serviceable parts, so do not attempt to open or repair the MX855. Refer servicing to a qualified technician only or contact the factory for information.

The trigger is 12 VDC (35mA per MX855) via 3.5mm mono jack. 5 VDC trigger outputs will not work. To connect the trigger to a receiver use a 12 VDC power supply (we suggest Knoll PS1205 power supply with an adaptor). Plug the power supply into the switched outlet on the rear of the receiver. Connect the 12 volt wire to a 3.5mm mono jack. Plug the jack into the rear of the MX855. 12 VDC polarity is not important. Make sure the MX855 power switch is off (out). When the receiver is switched on, the MX855 amplifier is switched on.



The Link button is normally set to the "in" position to give all six stereo inputs individual sources. When the Link button is set to the "out" position, that input Left/Right is linked or cascaded (or paralleled) to input #1 (without the use of Y cords). Any or all combination of linked inputs 2 to inputs 4 are possible. When all inputs are linked to input 1 the input impedance is about 6000 Ω.

Channel 4 can be mono bridged giving 180 watts into 8 ohms. **Never connect speaker loads less than 8 ohms to channel 4 in the bridged mode.** Select the bridge/stereo switch to the out position for the bridged mode. The bridged input is 4L. The 4L gain pot adjusts the bridged gain. The speaker is connected to the 4L+ and 4R+ in the bridged mode.

**Caution: NEVER connect the MX855 to impedances less than 4 Ω or amplifier damage not covered by the warranty may occur.**